

Montgomery County Residential Smoke Alarm Requirements

[illegible]

Installation and location of smoke alarms

Minimum location requirements:

- 1) Outside each sleeping area
- 2) On each level if dwelling is a multi-level home (includes basements)
- 3) To ensure maximum protection, install a smoke alarm inside each sleeping room

Maintenance

- 1) Monthly – using test button, check smoke alarms to ensure they are working as recommended by the manufacturer
- 2) Replace smoke alarms that are ten years old. Smoke alarms do not last forever and units that are 10 years old are near the end of their service life and should be replaced. Both hard-wired and battery-operated alarms are equally affected by age. Just like any electrical appliance, the circuitry and components of smoke alarms wear out over time. When a smoke alarm reaches 10 years of use, the potential of failing to detect a fire increases substantially and replacing units after 10 years reduces the likelihood of failure.

Residential Sprinkler Systems

Nothing in the new law is intended to imply that smoke alarms are an adequate substitute for residential sprinkler protection. The combination of properly located and functioning smoke alarms and properly designed residential sprinkler protection systems provide the greatest potential for surviving any residential fire.